SOUTH VIET NAM *In struggle*

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★

DAZIMINA HANOI
19, *Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN*
and other South Viet Nam NFL Missions in foreign countries

2 - JUN 2
Copy 1970

Combat preparedness

GLORY TO THE SOUTH VIET NAM PLAF

— The South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces (comprising the regular units, the regional troops, and the militia and guerilla units) are sprung from the people; they are boundlessly loyal to the interests of the fatherland and the people, and duty-bound to fight shoulder to shoulder with the entire people to liberate the South, defend the fatherland and make an active contribution to the defence of peace in Asia and in the world.

— To pay due attention to the building of the Liberation Armed Forces. To strive to raise their quality and increase their fighting capacity with a view to stepping up the people's war, defeating the US, satellite and puppet troops, and bringing the fight against US aggression, for national salvation, to complete victory.

— To strengthen political work with a view to enhancing the patriotism and determination to fight and win of the Liberation Armed Forces; to raise their sense of discipline; to continuously tighten the "fish-and-water" relations between the army and the people.

Officers and men of the Liberation Armed Forces enjoy the right to vote and to stand for election, and enjoy land rights and all other citizen rights.

(Political Programme of the NFL)

A NIGHTMARISH STORY

How US Green berets and Marines "Pacify" South Viet Nam

The ordeal of BUI THI HUONG (or "the finest hours" of Nixon)

FOR still unknown reasons, the Pentagon last week had to declare the Green Beret Commander in South Viet Nam and many of his subordinates guilty of wilful murder.

One should ask, then, how many other crimes the US Command had ordered and hushed up.

Tortures inflicted on prisoners and atrocities committed during so-called "pacification" operations are coupled with the massive use of B 52 strategic aircraft, napalm and toxic chemicals.

Can words describe all the ruthlessness and atrocities of the US aggressors?

In an American paper, I have found a story published not for the purpose of informing the public of the essence of the American intervention, but, on the contrary, with intention to make the public believe that such acts have been suppressed.

Such acts, indeed, have sometimes led to law suits, trials, and even sentences. But, after all, is this of any good?

Of the ten servicemen involved, only two are still in prison. The rest have been promptly released. One of the latter has even regained his rank as sergent in the Marine Corps, while the seven others have returned to their civilian lives.

That, after they had taken part in a terror operation against Xuan Ngoc, a small hamlet of South Viet Nam, just close to Phu Lai.

It was during the night, and the "leathernecks" began by brushing into a small hut and savagely beating up the master of the dwelling, Nguyen Luu, 61, and his family.

In the neighbourhood, the US troops shut five children from two to nine years of age into a hut and threatened to set fire to it. A little further, they destroyed another hut and raped Nguyen Thi Mai, a girl of sixteen.

According to the American paper, the facts have been placed into the hands of the Navy General Attorney in Washington.

The paper goes on:

THE men of the first squad ravaged six more huts. They made a thorough search but could find neither weapons nor illicit goods. They terrorized and beat up the villagers, but could not get any information on the Viet Cong. When they arrived at the tenth hut, the home of Bui Thi Huong, they were completely disappointed and mad.

Bui Thi Huong was eighteen years old, and mother of a little boy of three, Dao Tien. Her husband, Dao Quang Thinh, was twenty years old. He was a farmer and was victim of a chronic skin disease. His health was too bad for him to be in the army. He lived in the hut with his mother, Nguyen Thi Linh, 50, his sister, Phan Thi Tan, 29; and the daughter of his sister, Dao Thi Tao, 5. They were all sleeping when the first squad broke into their house.

The soldiers shook Thinh out of his bed and accused him of being a VC. Thinh shook his head in the negative while saying again and again "No, No, Viet Cong." The troops, however, struck him with their fists, on his head and his abdomen. The other soldiers dragged the three women, despite their cries, out into the open. Thinh succeeded in breaking free and sprang to the door, but two Marines caught him at his waist, and began raining blows and kicks on him.

A Marine came out of the house waving a grenade. Calling to the other soldiers he pointed a finger at the grenade and then at Thinh, saying that the grenade proved that Thinh was a VC. Thinh shook his head, his eyes dilated with fear. He protested that the grenade did not belong to him. The soldiers bore upon him and beat him out of consciousness. They placed him against the front wall of the house and ordered his sister, his mother, and the two children to sit down by his sides.

While two Marines mounted on guard beside them, the five other soldiers got together at the place where the young wife of Thinh was being kept. The young woman had heard the protests of her husband while he was being beaten, and the cries of her mother-in-law and her sister-in-law, and the whining of the children. She could not cry because one of the men shut her mouth with his hand while two others held her arms and legs and threw her down on the ground on her back.

When all the five men had got around her, they forced her to open her legs, and took off her trousers and ripped open her vest. She felt brutal hands exploring her breasts, and sought to break free, but her arms and legs were paralyzed as if caught in steel tweezers. The pressure by the hand on her face was so great that she believed her nose would be crushed soon. She felt the point of a dagger on the forehead. A man knelt down between her legs with a torch-light, while the others spoke and laughed.

She struggled and bit at the hand that was choking her, and when the hand was lifted up she emitted a cry that pierced the night. The hand again clamped hard down on her mouth, and she felt that her chin became wet with blood. Again the hand went back to her face, this time holding a cap, and she could neither cry or see any longer.

When the first man penetrated her, she prayed for her husband and her baby. The second man took her, and she could hear her mother-and sister-in-law moan at the door. They said they knew nothing, that they were not VietCong, and that the Americans had verified their identity cards just in the morning.

Bui Thi Huong prayed and prayed while the second man took possession of her body. Finally she was so tired and so hurt that she went out.

She fell water splashing on her face, and regained consciousness to see a man standing over her and pouring water from a gourd on to her face. Another man slapped her face, and she was relieved to see that no one was on her or in her. The gourd was passed to two men standing close to her, and they started washing their loins with the water. All the men were speaking and laughing. Then the third man violated her.

Tears welled up in her eyes, but her sobbing died right in her throat because of the hand on her mouth. She was very tired, and hoped to faint again, but could not. She heard the voice of her husband and knew that he was suffering. He asked what they were doing to his wife.

After the third man had finished with her, the fourth man, and then the fifth man, took her. The voice of her husband grew louder now. He cried and called for his wife. He must be heard across the village. The Marines tried to outshout him, out he cried on. The men around her shouted angrily in the direction of the men on guard, but the husband cried even louder.

The last man got up from her, and they all went away. She heard them shout at her husband, and heard the latter cry when they struck him. He had a hysterical hatred for them, because, he said, he knew what they had done to her. He knew, he knew.

They did not understand, and she heard them say things which she did not understand either. But then she heard a shot. It exploded angrily, deafeningly. She no longer heard her husband. What she heard was only the moaning of her mother-in-law, her sister-in-law, and the children.

Then she heard another shot, and the voice of her mother-in-law ceased to come. Then another shot, and two or three more. Then all became silent.

My baby, she thought. My baby. She knelt up and hear a dry noise in the bamboo groves. She perceived a blinding light, and felt an acute pain in her right arm and her chest. She felt as if she were lifted up from the ground. Her head turned, and she dropped heavily on the ground. She believed she was dead. Then, from under her, a violent explosion shook the earth. She felt a rain of rubble on her. She went out.

Well, this was the war the Americans are waging. This is what Nixon has had the cheek to describe as "the finest hours" of the United States.

YVES MOREAU

(From "L'Humanité Dimanche nº 232)

PLAF's IMPORTANT EXPLOITS *in January 1970*

DEVELOPING the brilliant victories won during the past year, the PLAF and population of South Viet Nam repeatedly attacked the enemy, driving them into further passivity and setbacks since the first month of new year.

From the night of January 3 and before down of January 4, the **PLAF repeatedly assaulted series of bases or headquarters of US, puppet and satellite regiments or divisions** such as the 1st and 2nd puppet regiments, the 5th US Marine Regiment, the Americal Division, the 5th Regiment of the "Fierce Tiger" Division of Pak Jung Hi troops, the base of the 3rd puppet armoured regiment, the US 4th Infantry Division, the 43rd puppet regiment, the US 1st Cavalry Division, the 1st and 2nd brigades of the US 25th Infantry Division, Many enemy airfields, logistic areas, training centres and military ports were also pounded by the PLAF artillery.

The armed home-guard forces in the Delta also made repeated attacks on the enemy in dozens of subsectors, military sectors, district capitals and townships. Right in Saigon, the armed home-guards intercepted many US military convoys.

Guerillas and regional forces frequently intercepted and interdicted the enemy in key sections of Highways 14, 19 and 21 (High Plateaux), Highways 4, 9 and 13, and many inter-provincial roads. On the portion of Highway 19 from Binh Khe (Binh Dinh province) to Mang Giang Pass (Gia Lai province), the PLAF ambushed the enemy on many occasions, wiping out nearly 170 US and Pak Jung Hi troops, destroying 75 military vehicles. During *two tough communication battles in Binh Long and Phuoc Long areas*, the PLAF destroyed 150 military vehicles, eliminated more than 300 puppet marines in Phuoc Long, wiped out more than 500 troops of the US 11th armoured regiment and shot down 15 planes. On two railway sections in *Phu Yen and Da Nang — Hue*, two enemy trains were wrecked.

The PLAF infantry, artillery and anti-aircraft forces launched co-ordinated attacks on many enemy infantry and armoured bases including those on the defence line north of Saigon and especially the area north-east of Tay Ninh. The PLAF wiped out more than 400 US marines in *Cam Doi*. During a 15 minute battle at *Nuoc Man* the PLAF annihilated the battalion headquarters and a US artillery battery including 200 troops of the Americal Division, destroyed 8 artillery pieces and set ablaze an ammunition dump. Cam Doi is an important installation of the US-puppets in their defence system south of Da Nang and north of Chu Lai. It was at Cam Doi that the South Viet Nam armed forces had made murderous onslaughts on US troops belonging to the 101st Airborne Division, the Americal Division and US Marines Division. Reporting on the attack, AFP on January 7 wrote: "The sappers broke through the defence perimeter in three places in the north, south and southwest... It was raining in torrents and it was dark as in a tunnel. Moreover there was no moonlight. The sappers ran in the alleys of the camp... Several US marines were killed by them". This victory was a good inaugural battle for 1970 in Quang Nam.

The PLAF destroyed 73 military vehicles and annihilated more than 200 enemy troops on the *Cam Ly airfield near Da Lat* (Tuyen Duc province). On the enemy outer-defence line in *Tay Ninh*, within more than 20 days, the PLAF infantry, artillery and anti-aircraft forces wiped out nearly 600 enemy, shot down or destroyed on the ground 26 aircraft, destroyed 26 tanks and armoured cars and 8 pieces of heavy artillery.

Last month, in face of the PLAF's offensive, the enemy had to conduct a number of relief, preventive and "pacification" operations on several key theatres such as the Mekong delta, and the plains in the central part of Central Viet Nam. But the PLAF broke off all these operations. Within the first 10 days of January, 1970, *the PLAF in Quang Nam — Da Nang, Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh* attacked the enemy within the towns and enemy-bases outside the provincial capitals, putting out of action nearly 3,500 enemy including 1,600 GIs and Pak Jung Hi troops, wiping out or decimating a US battalion headquarters, 4 battalions, 5 companies, and dozens of enemy platoons. They destroyed nearly 130 military vehicles including 83 tanks and armoured cars, 17 heavy big guns; shot down 32 aircraft and set ablaze 5 ammunition dumps.

During many battles at *Mekong delta* in the 20 days ending January 22, the PLAF put out of action nearly 7,000 enemy troops, shot down 14 aircraft, destroyed 19 cars, sank 9 war vessels, and burnt down 2 dumps containing nearly 5 tons of ammunition.

The population and PLAF in Rach Gia wiped out and decimated a field headquarters and two battalions of Brigade A of the puppet marines in Vinh Hoa village, killing or wounding over 700 enemy (January 22), forcing the enemy to retreat from U Minh area. The Rach Gia victory is yet another heavy blow dealt at the strategic reserve forces of the puppets.

The puppet marines also took heavy casualties in Giong Trom, Mo Cay (Ben Tre province) where nearly 500 enemy supporting the "pacification" elements were wiped out. Simultaneous attacks were launched on the night of January 18 in the provincial capital and 5 districts. As a result, over 100 enemy troops were wiped out, and 2 artillery pieces destroyed. According to still incomplete figures, *the liberation forces in Ben Tre province* during January put out of combat more than 4,400 enemy troops. Besides, they wiped out or badly battered a puppet marine company, 6 platoons and other two companies and demolished 12 military vehicles and five 155mm howitzers. They shot down 2 aircraft, set ablaze one warship and seized 26 firearms. Vessel-hunting teams of the regional forces in Ben Tre province in the 10 days ending January 28 sank or set ablaze 12 landing ships and 2 ferry-boats on Ham Luong river, killing or wounding 200 enemy, including a whole puppet company and 2 platoons.

The PLAF in An Giang province on January 29 intercepted a puppet infantry battalion supported by 3 armoured squadrons wiping out 100 enemy troops, and destroying 10 armoured troop carriers. The PLAF attacked the enemy without let-up on their outer-defence line in *Binh Long and Phuoc Long*. Outside the exploits quoted upstairs, the PLAF in *Binh Long province* in an attack about 5 kilometres northeast of Loc Ninh township on January 21, put out of combat 330 GIs, destroyed 61 tanks and armoured troop carriers, shot down 15 war planes, and captured a large quantity of military equipment. On January 24, they intercepted a puppet commando company east of Hill 223 and engaged elements of the US 1st armour regiment sent in as reinforcements, killing or injuring many enemy troops and blasting 8 armoured cars. Within the 10 days ending January 30, *the PLAF in Phuoc Long province* destroyed 82 military vehicles (including 32 tanks and armoured cars), killing or wounding hundreds of enemy troops. They also shot down 16 helicopters.

Within the 20 days ending January 21, *the PLAF in Tri-Thien* shot down or destroyed on the ground 27 aircraft, damaged 6 others, wiped out hundreds of enemy troops on board the planes and more than 100 US paratroopers in A Shau area.

On the night of January 20, *the guerillas in Saigon* attacked a US billet in Tran Hung Dao boulevard in the second precinct, blasting two stories of the building and destroyed 2 military depots. At least 50 Americans, mostly officers, were wiped out. Within only the first 20 days of January, the home-guard units of the Saigon liberation armed forces struck repeatedly at the enemy: intercepting two military vehicles of the US on Hong Bang street on January 2, knocking out of action all the American occupants; blowing up a car loaded with American officers on January 6, killing or wounding 5 of them, and again on January 20 wiping out 50 Americans. Saigon city which is the biggest stronghold for the US and puppets cannot be a sanctuary for them.

The guerillas and regional forces stepped up their military activities, harassed hundreds of enemy positions, destroyed many bridges, sank many war vessels and destroyed many gasoline pipes.

The areas where the enemy increased their defence were also the theatres where the PLAF recorded many big exploits such as the Mekong delta, the plains of the Central part of Central Viet Nam, and Binh Long and Phuoc Long areas north of Saigon.

The PLAF dash forward in the flush of their victories

editorial

Glory to the South Viet Nam PLAF

ON February 15, 1970, the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces are exactly 9 years old. Born of the 1959-1960 simultaneous uprisings, they first were only units of armed propaganda, or scattered self-defence outfits set up in a few villages and districts to back the masses' political actions. On February 15, 1961, the situation in South Viet Nam imperiatively called for a decision of the Central Committee of the National Front for Liberation to merge all those groups into the People's Armed Forces placed under the unified command of the All South Viet Nam People's Armed Forces Command.

Since then their rapid growth has been keeping pace with the speedy development of the resistance to US aggression for national salvation. Since then they have been sharing with the whole South Vietnamese people the credit for signal exploits and for successive failures of US strategy after US strategy. Shortly after their emergence, they were devastatingly strong enough to trounce the 35,000-strong puppet army in such electrifying engagements as in Tua Hai (Tay Ninh), Phuoc Thanh (Phuoc Vinh), Dac Ha (Kontum). Then they met the US special war with bigger unit operations which inflicted serious casualties on the army of South Viet Nam quislings whose structure was badly shaken. A series of dramatic successes, touched off by the Ap Bac battle (Feb. 1963) and occurring all through the years 1963, 1964 and 1965 in Binh Gia, Dong Xoai, Ba Gia etc... sealed the fate of the enemy "heliborne", then "armour" tactics and finally of the special war.

To stave off their agents' immenent collapse, the US imperialists committed masses of their own troops to a local war in South Viet Nam and deployed their aircraft and naval artillery in a war of destruction against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Pursuing their offensive strategy, continuing the heroic tradition of the nation and benefiting from its combat experiences, the PLAF coordinating their efforts with the whole people inflicted bitter reverses on the US expeditionary Corps, first in Van Tuong (August 1965), then in Bau Bang, Plei Me (late 1965) and fought off two US strategic counter-offensives in the 1965-1966 and 1966-1967 dry seasons and foiled the enemy "two-prongs; search and destroy" and "Pacification" strategies, one after another.

More remarkably, since Tet 1968, in the context of the US local war stepped up to a high level of violence with an aggregrate US-puppet and satellite troop strength of 1,200,000 men (including over half a million GI's) the PLAF have switched over to a new stage, that of widespread military offensives and popular uprisings, delivered powerful punches, struck at series of towns and cities, liberated extensive rural areas, wiped out considerable adverse manpower, which represent unprecedented all-round achivements.

INCOMPLETE statistics so far have indicated that for 9 years, since their coming into being, the PLAF together with the South Vietnamese people have been responsible for the putting out of action of 2,645,000 adverse troops, including 735,000 US and satellite soldiers, the downing or destruction of 19,400 planes, the knocking out of commission of 45,000 military vehicles and of 2,800 ships and combat launches.

The PLAF feats of arms of the past 9 years, particularly those accomplished since Tet 1968 have produced a sudden change in the complexion of the war, in favour of the SVN armed forces and people and to the detriment of the US aggressors and their confederates. Unmistakably enough after less than a decade of gruelling exertions, their offensive posture has been substantially strengthened, the noose of their stranglehold around the enemy positions inexorably tightened, the adverse battle array utterly upset and the enemy loss of the initiative seriously aggravated. The PLAF strength has been growing in proportion to their resolve while their opponents' morale has been declining inversely to their rising toll. Their "search and destroy" and "pacification" strategies have been replaced by the "clear and hold" strategy and "Americanization" by "de-Americanization".

One thing can be read into the record of the SVN armed forces and people: their tremendous advance from guerilla and self-defence units into a redoutable revolutionary army, from small-unit operations to large scale and combined actions, from scattered engagements to sustained battles, from the use of primitive and captured equipment to the manning of a great variety of weapons, ranging from the most up-to-date to the most rudimentary. Even their adversaries have to admit that they have been writing a most epic chapter of their history.

Considering the formidable force thrown by the US whose ambitions are of the wildest and whose methods are most vicious and brutal, into such a tiny battle field as South Viet Nam, against some tens of thousands of diminutive guerillas, the successes of the latter can hardly be underestimated. And one can relevantly supply the explanation that the PLAF are an army born of the people and unreservedly loyal to the people whose single purpose it is to fight for the people and for the Fatherland, whose sacred duty it is to battle shoulder to shoulder with the people for the liberation of South Viet Nam, for the defence of the land and for the preservation of peace in Asia and in the world. It is the people who foster and assist them. It is the people who are their comrades-in-arms. It is from this "fish-and-water" relationship that they derive their matchless strength. It is also from the lucid and able leadership of the National Front for Liberation that they get their force and it is to its sound combat line and directions as well as to its military art that they owe their news-making successes. And their spiritual and material strength has been constantly replenished by its various policies which have been ceaselessly broadening national unity, improving the masses' living standards and widening the democratic process.

THE South Vietnamese people take great pride and place unlimited trust in their revolutionary armed forces whose performance of the last 9 years has lent more lustre to their "Unqualified loyalty to the people, unparalleled courage in action, splendid success in combat" banner. Our whole nation addresses to them, the finest flower of its youth, its most loving wishes, our friends all over the world are paying a glowing tribute to their breath-taking deeds and undying fame and untarnished glory is forever associated with their name.

SOUTH VIET NAM

* *Fording a stream.*

* *Saigon Women-guerillas on drill*

WARM GREETINGS TO THE PLAF's COMBATANTS, ARTISANS OF THE BRILLIANT FEATS OF ARMS!

* *Post-combat recreation*

* *The PLAF street-fighting*

RIVER AMBUSH

DAWN was breaking. After the first bombs had landed and the first artillery barrage had been laid on Nga Tat area and while enemy helicopters and spotter planes were criss-crossing in the sky over Long Trung village, Kim and his team made for the bank of the Tra Tan river. Judging from the enemy's manoeuvre, the fighters were certain of a major encounter.

Companies X. and Y. had all opened up. Words come that men of Company X. had made short work of a US company in sector 16, while those of Company Y. had put out of action about a platoon of GIs in sector 14. The best news, however, was the annihilation of more than 50 Yankees by Claymore mines on the bank of the Mekong, and this was the exploit of the scout squad.

The successes of the friendly units heartened Kim's group.

"Hey, boys. Our turn'll come soon. Give it hard to them.

"Sure," said Met, a chubby youth. "They shall not pass as long as we're here."

The artillery bombardment raged on with unabated fierceness, heavily cratering fields and orchards.

In the thundering explosions, enemy ships appeared and moved up the river very fast, too fast, perhaps.

Obviously the enemy's scheme was to cripple whatever resistance on either bank of the river with big gun shellings before rushing in water-borne troops to take Company X. and Y. by the rear. Yet, they had reckoned without the fearlessness, matchless endurance and grim resolve of Kim and other fighters patiently waiting for them with guns of all calibres.

The first ships entered the ambushed zone deluging both banks with hot lead.

The PLAF, however, remained silent. As agreed previously, there would be no signal for the attack. Each fighter was free to chose his target and to open up as it suited him.

Kim raised his head an inch above ground level, and saw a landing craft just in front of him. He cuddle the stock of his gun into his right shoulder and stood up to his full height. He fired and saw the shell disappear into the hull of the ship.

Other fighters also opened up, hitting the ship at about the same place. The result was a succession of fire-balls on the doomed ship.

The second ship moved up and tried to tower the first ship out of danger.

The PLAF's fire became more intense, and one after another enemy ships burst in flames. Black smoke rose up in big columns from the river.

When the seventh ship was hit, the rest of the convoy turned tail.

"Don't let them get away," PLAF fighters shouted to one another, setting out in pursuit of the enemy.

Gunfire from the banks did not cease for a moment. Not a few Yankees tried to save themselves by jumping overboard, only to get hit by the PLAF's withering fire.

That was how modern US war ships met their end on the river Tra Tan, one of the many peaceful, quiet rivers that feed on the mighty Mekong and that water the fertile delta land.

VO TRAN NHA

In the people's care

Fraternization between marching PLAF and mountaineers

THE Hais had two sons who were both pressganged by the US-puppet authorities early in 1967. Since then they were plunged in deep sorrow, anxiously hoping for the return of their dear ones. But the news came that the latter had fallen in the beginning of 1968. On top of this, there was a frantic US raid on village T., Phong Dien district (Thua Thien). They were thus in the center of the enemy "pacification" zone. Day after day they witnessed many US-puppet arsons, plunders and killings. So they were eager to do their best for the Revolution and avenge their sons.

One sleepless night, they heard rifle shots in their hamlet followed by dog-barking and thudding of feet. The old man rushed out and ran against a Liberation fighter.

"My name is Hao," said the soldier, "I was back from a mission when I met the enemy..."

"What a wound you got!" exclaimed Hai upon seeing that his interlocutor was losing much blood.

He was still at a loss to hide Hao when a sound of hobnailed boots was heard in the lane. Hurriedly he led the fighter to a cache in a corner of the yard. At this very moment five "pacification" agents came and searched the house.

"Where did you hide the Viet Cong?" asked the squad leader when he saw Hai standing in the yard.

"I rushed out upon hearing rifle-shots, and I don't know anything about your Viet Cong."

"You lie in your throat. I have just seen him run into this house.."

"You have mistaken."

The squad leader snatched the old man's collar and pulled it, throwing him on the ground. Rising up, Hai flung himself against the devil who collapsed, and shouted, "you say that you work for the people but you bully even old folks."

The devil fumed and his accomplices tried to tie the old man, but the neighbours came and protested so vehemently that the ruffians had to withdraw.

Enemy flares illuminated the whole area. The Hais led Hao into their house and dressed his wound, then hurried to repair their secret shelter to hide him in.

Informed that the Liberation fighter was still in the hamlet, the enemy occupied the old man's house to try and starve our combatant to death, and kept a round-the-clock watch on the Hais, preventing them from contacting Hao.

After three days in the shelter, the fighter was ravenously hungry and badly suffered from his wound which stank odiously. Once Hao pulled out his grenade in an attempt at having it out with the enemy, but he held it in when thinking of his duty toward his superiors and the coming fight.

Five days elapsed without Hai devising a way to save Hao. On the sixth day, the lieutenant-chief of the "pacification" team detected a foul odour and asked:

"I say, Mr Hai, do you smell a strange odour?"

"I don't catch your words," the old man placidly answered.

The chief reiterated his question.

"Old as I am, I am not so keen as you."

"What if I found a corpse in your house." And he ordered his men to make a thorough search at Hai's complete consternanion.

But the ruffians did not find anything suspect after two hours of hard toil. Relieved, the old man asked humourously, "Are you tired, lieutenant?" This flung the devil into a rage. And Hai went on, "No wonder that you lose to the Viet Cong with your bullying the people..." The puppet had to make apologies. Thus, after six days staying in the house, the cruel agents could not bring out any evidence of a Viet Cong presence. This led them to doubt about their informers.

On the seventh day, they withdrew. The Hais were extremely glad to find Hao still living. He had overcome six days of trial thanks a little water stored in the shelter. With the Hais' care he gradually restored himself. Before leaving the old couple, he could not hold his tears: "You have given me a second birth. I pledge to you that I will kill all the American aggressors and their stooges to avenge you and our people."

BUMPER CROPS

PEASANTS in Western Nam Bo last year increased sown acreage by 100,000 hectares as against the previous year. In An Bien district (Rach Gia province) over 5,000 hectares of waste land were improved while in Ca Mau province 20,000 more hectares were put under crops.

Supplementary crops were grown on vast areas. Can Tho province reserved some 25,000 hectares for this purpose. Supplementary area in Rach Gia went up three times, while that in Tra Vinh increased by seven times, as against the previous harvest.

Despite frequent enemy attacks, which resulted in heavy losses in cattle and crops, peasants made great efforts to normalize production, working even at night.

In many areas, even those bordering on enemy positions, not an inch was left in waste.

As a result, output has gone up markedly. It is now between 4 and 5 tons per hectare in Long My district (Can Tho), Chau Thanh and Thoi Binh district (Ca Mau), and Thanh Tri and Vinh Loi (Soc Trang). Total yield per hectare for all the three harvests of the year stand at 14 or 16 tons.

In their enthusiasm, peasants in this region are endeavouring to complete the harvest in time and paying their dues to the revolution, while seeking better ways to conceal the fruits of their labour from enemy scrutiny.

PLAF helping the population in Western Nam Bo to harvest in time

THE RADLAY RISE UP

— Editor's note — *Like millions of other South Vietnamese peasants, Pi Nang Thach has turned soldier in the current fight against the US aggressors.*

In the following story, this PLAF Hero will tell us how he has led his people, the Radlay minority, to rise up against the enemy:

TOWARDS the end of the year, it was decided that we should liberate the people in the concentration camp. I was sent ahead for the preparations.

The guards there consisted of Kinh, Cham and Thuong nationals. I found out that the Kinh's would be on duty on the night chosen for our action, so I persuaded them to let the Thuong's take their place. They were only too pleased.

Together with the insiders we had enlisted among the Thuong's, we carefully planned the escape. The enemy was taken by surprise, and the people went back safely to their native place.

Our village thus became a thorn in the enemy's flesh. We were attacked very brutally, with big gun fire, planes, or ground troops. There were raids by two or, even, three thousand enemy, and there were days when we received as many as two hundred cannon shells. As for air-raids, each of them would last four or five hours.

The district committee of the NFL told us not to budge an inch from our village. I discussed the matter with the people, and we agreed to remain where we were.

Daily attacks by the enemy rendered farming very difficult. A wisp of smoke where we were reclaiming land, or the least sign of vegetation would draw the attention of the enemy, and bombardment would immediately follow.

We soon succeeded in outwitting the enemy, by working collectively. Land-reclaiming would thus be done in one breath, so were other jobs. As a result the enemy were perplexed as to what to attack and what not.

For the last five years, we always overfulfilled our production plan, having enough not only to eat but also to give to the army. We became the best village in the whole province in good production and in withstanding enemy pressure.

In 1967, a movement was launched among guerillas in the province to shoot down enemy planes with rifle fire. It was a great joy for me, for I myself had thought very hard how to deal with those air-pirates that had been pestering my people. I talked to my fellow-guerillas. At first some considered my view unfavourably, reasoning that the enemy would retaliate with even more violent attacks. With patience, I pointed out to them that although not any plane had been knocked down over the village so far, the enemy had never left us in peace. I also reminded them of the fact that with our spears, arrows, and booby-traps, we could keep enemy troops at arm's length now. "It's the same with enemy aircraft," I said. "Other people can shoot them down, so can we, and the enemy will learn to respect us."

I went to the political instructor of village D who had brought down a spy plane, and asked him how he had done it. I also went to village L. where the guerillas has just destroyed a jet plane. Although I learned a lot from those people, I failed in the first three ambushes. In the fourth, which I prepared together with my two brothers, however, I got a jet fighter.

I showed the other guerillas in the village how to fight enemy planes. "Look here," I said. "It's just like shooting fast-running animals. All you've to do is to aim at a point ahead of them, and the faster they run, the greater must be the distance between their heads and the point you aim at."

I laid the fifth ambush with my brothers and three other men. The enemy returned fire fiercely, but none of us got hit. The next time, I brought my two daughters along. We took position at the entrance of a cave. As the planes showered us with bombs, one of the girls ran to a nearby hill-top and climbed up a tree where she put up a piece of white cloth. The enemy fell for the bait, swerving off to the new target.

This was a profitable lesson. I then organized the guerillas into many groups and positioned them among the hills to guard every possible approach to the village.

The result was that the enemy had to fly very high and, therefore, lost to a great extent their efficiency during bombardments or chemical sprays.

What rejoiced us most was that in the two years of 1967 and 1968, we bagged 32 enemy planes of various kinds. I myself got a jet fighter, a cargo plane, and a helicopter. We became the best village in the province in the fight against enemy air-raiders.

We also made great efforts to fortify the village. We build more bomb-shelters for the folks, set up innumerable booby-traps for the enemy, prepared secret hideouts in case of sudden raids, and patrolled the village day and night. Our preparedness and vigilance have helped us the last few years break many terror raids, during which we killed or wounded hundreds of enemy, mostly Yankees or Pak Jung Hi men.

At that time guerillas in other villages were leaving the mountains to fight the enemy in the plains. This suited me perfectly, for I myself for a long time had seen that to defend ourselves we had to fight the enemy not only in our village, but also on their own territory. I told the district committee of my plan, and got its approval.

Some of the guerillas, however, were hard to be convinced. They weren't used to the new terrain. "And who'll look after our folks when we're away?" they asked.

I brought the matter to the rest of the villagers, and they all agreed to give a hand to those families whose men had to go. That settled it.

In the first months of 1968, my unit engaged the enemy many times. Once we waylaid a Pak Jung Hi company just outside its position. We didn't open up till the enemy were quite near. The first round killed 8 of them and injured 7 others. Another time we assaulted the enemy just after their landing. We closed in on them without their knowing it. We killed 4, and captured many grenades.

We did whatever we're asked to, acting as scouts for the main forces, supporting artillery units, raiding enemy airfields, dymamiting roads or bridges.

We fought 17 independently times, each time inflicting heavy losses. And after each victory, we're given a rousing welcome by our folks at the village.

A group of the SVN PLAF combatants in company with Commander Fidel Castro, Premier and Commander Raul Castro, Cuban Minister of the RAF in the "Zafra of ten millions"

THE STRENGTH OF MILITANT SOLIDARITY

TWELVE countries in the Middle and Near East and Africa have established diplomatic relations with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

This, indeed, is an important development of the militant solidarity between the South Vietnamese people and the fraternal Arab and African peoples, and constitutes a great encouragement to fighting South Viet Nam in its just struggle against US aggression, for national salvation.

Although separated by great distance and of different customs and ways, languages and colours of the skin, the Vietnamese people and the Arab and African peoples were all once subject to colonialist rule. Therefore they understand one another very well, hold one another in great love and high esteem and are actively supporting one another in ther objectives of national liberation, independence and freedom. Their struggle for these common goals has gone on not for a few years but for the best part of a century now. This accounts for their close, unbreakable militant solidarity.

The peoples of the Middle and Near East and of Africa, whether fighting the Israeli aggressors and their American bosses, or waging an armed struggle against the Portuguese colonialists or the OTAN-supported white supremacists, or busy defending national independence from the threat of US-led imperialism, are fully aware that the South Vietnamese people are fighting not only for their own independence and freedom but also — out of their internationalist obligation — for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress for the whole world. Hence their devoted support, political, moral and material, to the Vietnamese people.

The Arab and African friends have spared no effort to contribute to the victory of Viet Nam. The militant solidarity felt for Viet Nam by the peoples, governments and ruling parties in the various Arab and African countries, as expressed during the recent visits by an NFL-PRG delegation led by Mr Tran Buu Kiem, and by Special Envoys Le Quang Chanh and Nguyen Van Quang, is an eloquent proof of the growing support from the Middle and Near East and Africa for South Viet Nam's just cause.

Stung to the quick by this vigorous backing to South Viet Nam, the US imperialists are seeking ways and means to poison the friendly relations between the South Vietnamese people and their Arab and African friends.

But, as an Arabian proverb has put it: "the dogs may bark and bark, the caravan goes on." No amount of trickery or perfidy of the imperialists and their lackeys can shake the Arab African peoples in their resolve to give all-out support for fighting South Viet Nam.

The South Vietnamese people, the SVN NFL and the RSVN PRG highly value the dedicated support, close friendship and indissoluble militant solidarity of their Arab and African friends, and regard these as a great inspiration to us in our determination to annihilate the enemy and save our country.

In our gratitude for the new strength given us by our Arab and African friends, we pledge our word to do our utmost to make this militant solidarity ever green. We will devote all our hearts and minds to bringing our struggle towards yet greater successes, thus assisting our Arab friends in their resistance to the Israeli aggressors, and the African peoples in their fight against the colonialists and racists.

It is our unshakable belief that the common cause of the South Vietnamese people and the Arab and African peoples will be crowned with victory.

TRUONG VAN XE

In brief

* In a letter addressed to the Cuban people, 216 young Americans declared to reserve all the fruit of their work during two months at the "sugar cane harvest for 10,000,000 tons of sugar" in Cuba on behalf of Vietnamese people in sign of eloquent manifestation of their support to the Vietnamese people's struggle.

* In India, a delegation of United States, England, Japan, West Germany religious... came in India to commemorate the centenary of Gandhi's birth held a meeting before the United States Embassy at New Delhi. The demonstrators delivered to the american Embassy a petition demanding the immediate cessation of the war in Viet Nam and the withdrawal of all american troops.

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